

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00247 200551Z
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 CU-04 EUR-12
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P R 190905Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO USMISSION GENEVA PEIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 160

UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 0247

PASS UNHCR

GENEVA FOR HA

EO: 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF ET
SUBJ: NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES

REF: A. DJIBOUTI 198, B. DJIBOUTI 125, C. GENEVA 5693

1. ONGOING MILITARY ACTION AGAINST IRREDENTISTS IN HARRAR AND AWASH AREAS OF ETHIOPIA HAS BROUGHT INCREASING RUMORS IN DJIBOUTI OF REPRESSION INDIGENOUS SOMALI LANGUAGE GROUPS IN THOSE AREAS. SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF LOCAL POPULATION OF DJIBOUTI, WITH STRONG ETHNIC AND CULTURAL TIES TO THOSE GROUPS, HAVE REACTED VIOLENTLY AND BLINDLY AGAINST ALL ETHIOPIANS, PARTICULARLY RECENT REFUGEES. THERE ARE MOUNTING NUMBERS DAILY OF ATTACKS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS, THEIR HOMES AND THEIR POSSESSIONS. REPORTEDLY THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DEATHS AMONG RECENT STUDENT REFUGEES.

2. NEWLY INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT OF DJIBOUTI IS DOING ALL IT CAN, INCLUDING PROVISION OF INCREASED POLICE PROTECTION, BUT NO ONE CAN CONTROL WHAT HAPPENS IN THE VARIOUS TOWNSHIPS AFTER DARK. RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO GOVERNMENT ARE LIMITED. ECONOMIC
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SLOWDOWN AND HEAVY UNEMPLOYMENT SERVE TO EXERBATE THE SITUATION.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THE UNHCR PLANNING TO SEND MISSION TO DJIBOUTI IN NEAR FUTURE. BELIEVE THAT UNHCR SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE EARLY PLANS TO MOUNT EFFECTIVE PROGRAM. MANY OF THE RECENT REFUGEES DO NOT SPEAK EITHER FRENCH OR ARABIC AND ARE NOT EMPLOYABLE FOR NUMEROUS REASONS. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ARRANGE FOR

ONWARD TRAVEL FOR THESE REFUGEES IN ORDER TO ARREST THE SWIFT
DECLINE OF SITUATION . LACK OF ACTION ON THIS MATTER WILL ALSO
CREATE DIFFICULT INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS AND POLITICAL
PROBLEMS WHICH MAKE SURVIVAL THIS YOUNG REPUBLIC THAT MUCH MORE
DIFFICULT.

4. UNHCR REQUESTED PROVIDE DATES VISIT OF MISSION AND NAMES
OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AVAILABLE.CLARKE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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